

Drinking Water



The Environmental Services Department (ESD) has an in-house laboratory used for testing both drinking water and surface water samples. The ESD laboratory has been in operation since 2005, and our laboratory capabilities are continually expanding to include additional water quality parameters.

Currently, for drinking water, the ESD laboratory only conducts bacteriological testing. The ESD laboratory is certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for compliance monitoring of Total and Fecal Coliform Bacteria in drinking water.

As part of the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program, the ESD laboratory is working to determine which surface water parameters are practical to test in-house rather than sending to Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC) for testing. The ESD laboratory compares in-house analytical data with replicate data from GLEC to verify data accuracy. In 2006, the surface water parameters monitored by the ESD laboratory included Chloride, Nitrate/Nitrite, Chlorophyll *a*, and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). In 2007, the ESD laboratory took over exclusive testing of Chloride and TSS, while Nitrate/Nitrite and Chlorophyll *a* testing is being further assessed.

The ESD will continue to look into increasing our laboratory capabilities to reduce costs, to become more autonomous, and to further ensure the quality of the Tribe's drinking and surface waters. If you have any questions about the ESD laboratory services, please contact us for more information.



Environmental Services Mission Statement

We will respect, honor, and care for Mother Earth and her families, keeping the next seven generations in mind. We will provide quality environmental services through a professional atmosphere, well-trained staff, and empirical data collection. We will actively participate in local, regional, and national environmental decision making processes affecting Indian Country. We will develop and implement ordinances and policies that will ensure the protection of our natural resources. We will continue to be diligent, honest, and accountable while making a positive difference regarding environmental issues.



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

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Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians



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Surface Water Monitoring

The department monitors Little Traverse Bay, inland lakes, and streams within the LTBB 1855 Historically Delineated Reservation as part of base-line assessment study which began in 2000. Water bodies are sampled every month from May–October. Monitoring includes a habitat assessment, macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects, worms, and crustaceans) sampling, and collection of water samples. The lake and stream water samples are tested for various parameters including chloride, nutrients, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. In addition, the lakes are tested for chlorophyll *a* and streams are tested for total suspended solids.

Kira Davis, WQS is sampling using a Hydrolab

Little Traverse Bay, Walloon Lake, Round Lake, Wycamp Lake, Oneal Lake, Five Mile Creek, Tannery Creek, Wycamp Creek, and Bear River are sampled on even-numbered years. Lake Charlevoix, Susan Lake, Larks Lake, Crooked Lake, Spring Lake, Brush Creek/Maple River, Big Sucker Creek, and Susan Creek are sampled on odd-numbered years. Upon completion of the base-line assessment study the program will be modified to address Tribal needs. Water is one of our most precious and delicate natural resources, and we must take steps now to protect water quality for generations to come.

The Environmental Services staff would like to recognize the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for funding these projects.

We would also like to thank the LTBB Odawa Tribal citizens for continuing to allow us to serve you.



Kira Davis, WQS is sampling using a Hydrolab

Wetlands

Wetlands are environments that are characterized by hydrophytic vegetation, periodic or permanently saturated soils, and an influence from water. They provide many valuable ecological functions such as filtering and cleansing water, flood and erosion control, groundwater recharge, and habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands are very important for the way of life for the LTBB, which is rooted in the traditional reliance on fishing, hunting, and gathering of plants for food, medicine, and crafting, as well as for cultural and spiritual purposes. Since 2001, the department has surveyed selected wetlands for functional values and culturally significant plants. Information gathered during these assessments was used to develop the LTBB Odawa Wetland Protection Statute that was passed by Tribal Council in 2006. During the 2007 and 2008 field seasons, the Wetland Specialist will conduct habitat and floral surveys, wetland delineations, and functional assessments for all LTBB wetland properties. Physical, chemical, and biological data will be collected for these properties as well as for additional wetlands that the Tribe has an interest in protecting within and adjacent to the reservation boundaries. We are also planning several field trips as opportunities for wetland education.



Van Creek Wetland

Environmental Services is here for you.

The LTBB Environmental Services staff is dedicated to



Michael Holmes, Lab Technician, with participants of the LTBB Youth Camp 2006T Mineral Park located at the mouth of the Bear River.

providing quality services to all Tribal members in Indian Country and protecting our valuable natural resources for the next seven generations.

Recycling

January 5th, 2003 Tribal Council enacted the LTBB Solid Waste Statute. The statute requires all persons on LTBB tribal trust lands to recycle. The Environmental Services Department has supplied all governmental offices, housing complex, Biindigen, Victories Hotel, and Victories Administration offices with recycling bins for glass, plastics# 1&2, office paper, tin, shredded paper and cardboard. We are currently awaiting completion of the Odawa Casino Resort before we address their needs. Our first Recycling Baseline Assessment was finished in Fall 2006. The data collected will further help our efforts in providing education and recycling awareness to Tribal Citizens and LTBB Employees. The simple act of placing a piece of paper, can, or bottle in a recycling container is the first step to reducing the demand on the Earth's limited resources.



Air

Current emissions inventory data indicates that there are several potential sources of emissions within the reservation boundary that can affect air quality including industry, automobiles, snowmobiles, boats, incinerators, transfer station/landfills, and refuse burn barrels. The Tribe is concerned with the overall respiratory health of the Tribal community and the accumulation of these air pollutants in subsistence foods such as fish, wildlife, and plants. Increased energy production and energy consumption are also contributing factors to increased emissions throughout the LTBB air shed. The success of the air quality management program will allow for further evaluation of the emissions that are currently affecting the LTBB air quality. Please contact us for more information.



Regina Gasco, Recycling Coordinator at the 2006 LTBB Annual Meeting.